

CHILDRENS POLICY

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr Norman Williams, Cllr Cath Giel
LEAD OFFICER: Len Gleed
REPORT AUTHOR: Sheena Mounsey

Summary and Recommendation:

That members of the Executive agree to the adoption of the outlined Child Protection Policy and associated procedures.

1. INTRODUCTION

All organisations have a duty of care towards the children for whom they provide activities or services. Sometimes, however, there are people who work, or seek to work, in organisations who may pose a risk to children and who may harm them. This policy will help Copeland Borough Council to take all reasonable steps to prevent this from happening.

It applies to the treatment of children (anyone under 18 years of age) by employees or volunteers, who may come into contact with them in the course of their work.

For the purpose of this policy the term "volunteer" will include:

- paid and unpaid helpers
- partner representatives
- members

2. PROCEDURES

Procedures will be put in place to support the policy to seek to ensure that all involved have a clear understanding of their responsibilities when working with children and young people.

The aim of these procedures will be to ensure that all employees and volunteers

- Recognise the signs of child abuse and what appropriate course of action should be taken in such circumstances
- Understand the potential risks to themselves and ensure that good practice is adhered to at all times

- Recognise signs of improper behaviour from other employees and take appropriate action should this occur

2. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

- Minimal training and documentation costs will be incurred
- The presence of such a policy will support the proposed funding bid from The Big Lotto.

3. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

List of Appendices

Appendix 1

Proposed Policy

List of Background Documents: None

**List of Consultees: Head of Leisure and Environmental Services
Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed . This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	None
Impact on Sustainability	None
Impact on Rural Proofing	None
Health and Safety Implications	None
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	None
Children and Young Persons Implications	The proposed policy will ensure duty of care is provided towards the children for whom they provide activities or services.
Human Rights Act Implications	None

Child Protection Policy

All organisations have a duty of care towards the children for whom they provide activities or services. Sometimes, however, there are people who work, or seek to work, in organisations who may pose a risk to children and who may harm them.

This policy will be used in conjunction with the Council's policies on equality, complaints, discipline, data protection and recruitment of ex-offenders.

Copeland Borough Council will endeavour to safeguard children by:

- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for employees and volunteers.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents and carers, employees and volunteers.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies that need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- Following carefully the procedures for recruitment of employees by ensuring that those recruited to relevant identified Copeland Borough Council positions do not commence employment prior to receipt of the necessary Criminal Records Bureau clearance. This process will also be followed, where deemed necessary by the appropriate manager, for volunteer recruitment
- Providing effective management for employees and volunteers through supervision, support and training